like a new-born babe; the supporter of men the descendants of MANU, the fit object of sacrifice.

4. Thou art laid hold of with difiiculty like the young of tortuously-twining (snakes) -,[1] thou who art the consumer of many forests, as an animal is of fodder.

5. Of whom smoke-emitting, the flames intensely collect; then, when diffused in the three regions[2] AGNI inflates himself in the firmament, like the blower of a bellows, .and sharpens (his flames), as (the fire blazes from the blast) of the blower.[3]

6. By the protections of thee, AGNI, the friend (of all), and by our praises (of thee), may we pass safe from the evil acts of men, as if. from malignant (enemies).

7. Powerful AGNI, bestow upon us the institutors (of pious rites), that wealth (which we desire) : may he discomfit (our foes): may he cherish us: may he be ever ready to bestow upon us food: and do thou,[4] AGNI, be present in battles for our success.

[1] *JPutro na hvdrydndm,* like the son of the crooked-going; the scholiast says, like a young snake, *bdlasarpah*: or it may mean the cole of rearing and plunging horses, of those not broken in, *asikshitabdldswali,*

* *Tadim aha trito divi upadhamati* is explained, *Irishu sthdnesku vydptah,* spread in the three regions; or, *trinistltd-ndni atilya,* having gone beyond the three regions; *dtmanani vpa varddhayali,* he blows up or enlarges himself.

[3] The text has *tisite dhmdtari,* he sharpens as in a blower ; which the scholiast explains, like the fire, which, in the proximity of one blowing with a bellow-, blazes up, so *Agni* sharpens h}3 flames, or of himself ad<ls to their intensity.

*The confusion of the second and third person is that of the

original.